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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 23 2016

The Honorable Gwen Moore
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your May 13, 2016 letter concerning the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) proposal for allocating forgiveness of principal under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The DWSRF is an essential funding source for many communities to address public health issues.

WDNR provided a proposal for public comment regarding their use of forgiveness of principal for disadvantaged communities, with an additional focus on lead service line replacements. This is the first time WDNR has included lead service line replacements as part of this process. The public comment period closed May 10, 2016 and the state received comments, including comments from the City of Milwaukee. WDNR is working to address the comments received and may make adjustments to its Intended Use Plan before making it final.

The DWSRF offers flexibility for states to manage their programs to address state-wide needs within funding limitations and states retain a great deal of discretion regarding which projects they fund and how they allocate forgiveness of principal. EPA has had discussions with WDNR regarding the federal requirements for forgiveness of principal under the DWSRF and will continue to work with them to ensure federal compliance.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denise Fortin or Ronna Beckmann, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kaplan
Acting Regional Administrator

bcc: Catherine M Davis – OCIR-CA-WPTT
OW – Office of Water – Immediate Office